# TRANSEND

**April 2007** 

A magazine for employees, retirees and stakeholders of the Arizona Department of Transportation

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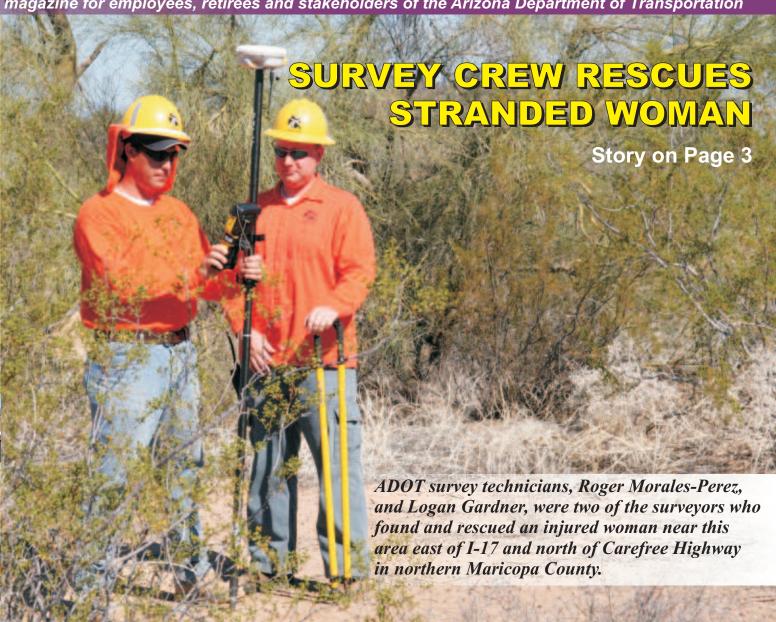
















Driving under optimum conditions requires vehicle operators to be alert, focused, and aware of all that is going on around them. Traveling in highway work zones demands so much more of motorists.

When traffic congestion and delays mount in work zones, the frustration level of drivers rise. We encourage all motorists to be alert for possible delays caused by construction zone barricades. When possible, we prefer to detour traffic around construction areas. But when that is not feasible, we must limit access, speed and direction of travel through the work zones.

At ADOT, we work hard to keep the motoring public informed about construction zones. Regularly published construction alerts are distributed to residents and businesses in areas that are affected by re-routing traffic. We utilize the news media to advise of anticipated construction delays, as well as making the information available on the Arizona 5-1-1 call line.

Additionally, we offer these safety tips to increase safety in work zones:

**Stay alert** Dedicate your full attention to the road conditions.

**Pay close attention Observe signs and follow** directions of work zone flaggers.

**Don't tailgate** – Allow yourself a greater margin of stopping distance to accommodate the stop and start pattern of traffic in work zones.

**Don't speed** – Note the posted speed limits in and around the work zone. Remember that traffic fines are doubled in work zones!

**Minimize Distractions** – Avoid changing radio stations and using mobile phones while driving in work zones.

**Expect the Unexpected** – Keep an eye out for workers and their equipment. Be mindful of rough and broken pavement, narrowing of lanes, and merging traffic.

**Be Patient** – Remember that work zone crews are working to improve your future commute. Everyone wants new roads and improvements to existing ones. But, oh, how they dislike construction zones!

April 2 – 6 is National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week. It is a time set aside to call public attention to the need for motorists to exercise extreme caution and heed road construction signs and directions from maintenance personnel who may be directing traffic. It is also a time for us to remember our employees and motorists who have been killed at highway construction sites.

A traveling Work Zone Memorial will be on display in downtown Tucson during the week of April 2 6 to commemorate those who lost their lives at construction site accidents throughout America.

Happy motoring, and watch out for our highway workers. Give 'em a brake!

### TRANSEND

**TRAN**SEND is published monthly for the employees and retirees of the Arizona Department of Transportation, by the Creative Services Group of the Communication and Community Partnerships Division

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All submissions for publication are subject to editing, for spelling, grammar, and technical accuracy; and may be rewritten for clarity, continuity, length and journalistic style.



### Victim found in remote area of northern Maricopa County

## Surveyors rescue stranded woman

By Ron Loar
Editor

day's work for survey crews usually involves scrambling up hillsides and down into ravines, crawling over rocks and ducking under trees. Then there's the usual assortment of cacti spines to avoid, along with scorpions and an occasional rattlesnake.

Wednesday, March 7 was just another one of those days for four ADOT surveyors. That is, until they heard calls for help.



Working in a remote section along I-17 near Pioneer Road in northern Maricopa County, four members of the Engineering Survey Section were about ready to call it a day. Survey Technicians Victor Garcia, a 10-year employee, and Roger Morales-Perez, who has been with ADOT for seven years, heard faint calls for help. They immediately began searching along the east side of I-17 in the direction of where the sounds originated.

Making their way down a rocky embankment, they were the first two members of the survey party to find a woman, approximately 30-years old, lying beneath a Palo Verde tree. "She could barely respond to our questions," Garcia said.

As Garcia tried to comfort the woman, Morales-Perez placed a cell phone call to their field supervisor, Donald L. Rohla, Jr., who was working on the west side of I-17. Rohla, a 10-year employee of ADOT and another survey technician, Logan Gardner, joined their fellow employees at the site where the woman was found. The supervisor directed personnel while Gardner telephoned 9-1-1.

Once emergency crews were in the area, Gardner, a two-year employee of ADOT, directed them to the location.

"She was unresponsive, and lying in the fetal position, about 1,000 feet from the highway," Rohla says about the victim. "She appeared to be dehydrated, disoriented and incoherent."

Rohla complimented his men for their actions, saying, "I'm proud of the guys. They did a good job. They work well as a team in their daily activities and carried that teamwork attitude through in this instance."

Morales-Perez said that the crew earlier had talked about leaving the area and return the next day to finish their survey project, but had decided at the last minute to stay and finish the job. "I feel good about being able to help someone in need," he said.

"It was certainly to the victim's advantage that they chose to remain on site and finish mapping the area," their supervisor said.

Continued on Page 4

Don Rohla, Jr., field supervisor; and Logan Gardner, survey technician, respond to questions at a news conference. They were two members of a crew of four ADOT surveyors who helped rescue an injured woman along I-17 in March.



### Surveyors rescue stranded woman

### Continued from Page 3

"Because they often are in remote and rough terrain, all our survey technicians are required to take an advanced first-aid course every two years," said Virgil Coxon, chief surveyor, "I'm delighted that the training has paid off and that these men demonstrated their sense of high moral duty to lend whatever assistance they could."

According to Coxon, in 2005, Rohla, had another occasion to use his first-aid training when he saved the life of a co-worker, Marvin Pennell, who had gone into anaphylaxis shock after being bitten by an insect while on the job. Rohla received a commendation for his actions in that instance.

Glendale

Cave

The ADOT crew assisted emergency personnel from Glendale, Peoria, and the community of Daisy Mountain to insure the injured woman made it out of the 200-foot ravine and up to the highway where a DPS helicopter was waiting to airlift her to John C. Lincoln Hospital. She was treated in the emergency room and released, according to a report from the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office.

Sgt. Don Harvey, investigating officer for the MCSO, said that the woman told officers that she had been hiking in the wilderness near her home when she was accosted by a man who took her to the remote area and allegedly sexually assaulted her.

"I appreciate the assistance from [the survey crew]. They knew the area well and were able to assist in the rescue efforts," Sgt. Harvey said. The investigator also reported that Morales-Perez assisted the officers by serving as an interpreter while deputies questioned a couple of Hispanic men in the area. The MCSO's Special Crime Victim's Unit is continuing the investigation.

Area where injured woman was found by ADOT workers.

ADOT survey technicians Victor Garcia and Roger Morales-Perez, field questions from reporters at a press conference after they and two other co-workers found and assisted an injured woman near their work site in March.

















# Aeronautics Division encourages young girls to explore careers in aviation and aerospace

Deputy Director, Aeronautics Division

he Aeronautics Division is partnering with the Challenger Space Center in Peoria, Arizona, for a series of seminars to encourage girls to pursue careers in the aviation and aerospace industries.

Wings to Fly is expected to draw 200 students, ages 11 to 19, to the Challenger Space Center located at 21170 North 83rd Ave. on April 21. Professional women in aviation and aerospace will share their career and life experiences with students interested in these industries.

To learn more about women in aviation programs and the Wings to Fly workshop, go to: www.azdot.gov/aviation/wingstofly

"Prominent women aviators and engineers will be leading the workshops, including keynote speaker Dr. Aprille Ericsson, a NASA engineer," says Carole Glenn, aviation education coordinator for the Aeronautics Division, "Stacy Howard, AOPA western

regional representative, and Gwen Kross, with All Out Aerial, will also participate."

"We'll also provide a seminar for parents interested in helping their children prepare for college," Glenn says. "We'll be providing information their kids need to know in order to succeed." She says that a mentoring program will be available for students attending.

In 2003, Women in Aviation, International demonstrated the need to encourage young women to pursue a career in aviation or aerospace or to "simply follow their dreams," according to Glenn.

"Of the 625,581 pilots registered with the Federal Aviation Administration, 36,757 (5.88 percent) are women," according to Glenn. "Of the 10,534 NASA scientists and engineers, 1,853 (17.59 percent) are women.

"This is an opportunity for the Arizona Department of Transportation, along with community partners, to take a strong lead in aviation education for Arizona," Glenn says. "We're setting the bar high for others to follow."

## AASHTO Spring Meeting to be held in Phoenix in May

pproximately 150 leaders in the transportation industry will meet in Phoenix early in May when the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) hold its spring meeting at the Ritz Carlton on Camelback Ave.



V. Mendez, AASHTO President

ADOT Director, Victor Mendez, is president of the national organization that advocates transportationrelated policies and provides technical services to support states in their efforts to provide efficient and safe transportation.

The five-day event, hosted by ADOT, will include workshops and breakout

sessions to discuss vital transportation legislation, technical issues, and public education. Mendez will lead the general sessions.

Conversation circles to promote interaction and discussion among transportation leaders will entertain such topics as *Data Sharing and Local Road Issues*, *Infrastructure Enhancements* – *Low Cost Safety Improvements, and Driver Behavior* – *Countermeasures, Improvements and Education.* 



### Launching your transportation project

### **Arizona Tribal Transportation Forum**

Representatives of Arizona's Native American Tribes met with state and national transportation officials in a day-long session to learn about processes for developing transportation projects.

This was one of several Arizona Tribal Transportation Forums sponsored by a consortium of government agencies to improve transportation on native lands, according to Don Sneed, Senior Planner with the Transportation Planning Division, and tribal liaison.

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), together with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), comprise the Arizona Tribal Strategic Partnering Team (ATSPT) which promotes the forums.

Meeting in the ADOT Human Resources Development Center (HRDC) in Phoenix, tribal officials were educated on the Project Overview Process of ADOT. The complex process involves evaluating nearly a dozen critical areas that impact the design of a project. These include, traffic, AASHTO standards, ADOT standards, local requirements, construction materials, season, environmental issues, drainage, cultural resources, stakeholders and budget.

They were also informed about ADOT's Programming Process that takes the proposed project from the proposal stage to getting it listed in ADOT's Five Year Program.

Breakout sessions allowed for discussion of three basic types of construction projects in which experts presented overviews of the processes and steps required to move specific types of projects through the system. Such projects included:

 Routine maintenance projects – fence repair, mowing of vegetation, pavement repair, guardrail, and drainage maintenance.

- Safety enhancement projects traffic control, signage, lighting, traffic signals, and road safety audits.
- New and improved roadway projects turn lanes, turnouts, bus pullouts, added capacity, widening existing roadway, pavement overlays, and drainage structures.

Participants were informed of names, addresses and phone numbers of key personnel to contact in their area regarding highway construction projects. These contacts included ADOT district technicians, engineers, and planners, as well as contacts with Councils of Governments and Metropolitan Planning Organizations.

Principle players in the Arizona Tribal Transportation Forum are, around the table, from left, Ed Stillings, FHWA; Ermalinda Gene, Partnering Office; Donald Sneed, TPD, and tribal liaison; Rick Powers, Globe District Engineer; David Silverman, Navajo Nation; Joy Keller-Weidman, Partnering consultant; David Zimmerman, Flagstaff Environmental Group; Jeff Swan, consultant; James Young, Acting Partnering Director; Myra Rothman, Right-of-Way Group; Bob Maxwell, BIA; and Nate Banks, FHWA.



Fallen highway workers remembered

National Work Zone Memorial **Sobservance held in Tucson** 

ighway workers, and law enforcement officers from around the state, as well as representatives of special interest groups gathered in downtown Tucson to commemorate those who died in work zone accidents.

ADOT Director Victor Mendez, serving as master of ceremonies, called attention to 112 orange traffic cones, each tied with black ribbons. He said the cones serve to remember the names of that number of Arizona residents who died in work zone-related accidents in the past five years. Nationally, there have been 1,100 deaths in highway construction zones since the memorial was instituted in 2002.

Tucson Mayor Robert Walkup shared the speakers' platform with Nate Banks, FHWA, Arizona Division; Commander Larry Scarber, Department of Public Safety; Bill McDaniel, pastpresident of the Arizona Chapter of the American Traffic Safety Services Assoc.; And Mike and Kelli Flynn, representing Friends and Families of Roadway Workers.

Sonya Herrera, Safety and Health administrator for ADOT, sang the national anthem.

The ceremony was held March 27th on the plaza of the Joel D. Valdez Public Library in downtown Tucson.



of Roadway Workers. The two characters were a big hit with children attending the event.



ADOT's highway safety mascott, Highway Hawk, gets a lesson in the importance of wearing his reflective safety vest from Rudy Hogg, a highway maintenance employee from Oracle. Watching are Evonne Aldana and Teresa Welborn of the Communication and Community Partnerships Division.

ADOT highway maintenance technicians, many who have seen fellow workers injured or killed in construction zones, were on hand at the March 27th Work Zone Memorial event in Tucson.







### By Karen Mills and Dian Work

### Accountability in the workforce

Accountability, accountability—a term we use and hear often, but how does it really relate to our work here at ADOT?

Each of us should hold ourselves accountable for our actions but we also need to hold those we work with, and those we do business with accountable. For example: If you should be offered gifts from those who seek to influence your decision making, you need to hold them accountable for their actions and let them know their behavior is inappropriate. You should also report their actions to your management.

As public servants, we must assure that government business is conducted openly, efficiently, equitably and honorable in a manner that permits the public to make informed judgments and hold officials accountable for their actions.

We have the power to choose what we say, do and think, thus, all our words, actions and attitudes reflect choices. Even when we don't like our alternatives, we have a choice.

Choosing not to choose is a choice; choosing not to act is a choice. We are morally responsible and accountable for the consequences of our choices, even those that are made subconsciously. It is every public employee's job to see that the government serves the people well by assuring that it is responsive, respectful, efficient, economical and fair.

As public servants at ADOT, looking to be accountable, we must practice the following:

**Oversight**: With responsibility comes accountability. We are accountable for our employees' actions. All employees should know and understand the legal and ethical obligations applicable to their duties.

**Openness**: We must exercise our public power so as to allow public scrutiny and exercise the authority of positions openly so that the public is informed about governmental decisions.

Improve System: We must take affirmative steps to avoid waste, inefficiency, illegality, and unintended consequences. Employees should take whatever actions they can to correct problems, streamline procedures and improve services. Where desirable changes exceed authority, employees should promptly recommend reform to the appropriate person.

**Self Policing**: We will take whatever steps necessary, including reporting, to prevent unlawful or unethical use of public position, authority or resources. Each employee has a responsibility to build an ethical culture that does not condone inappropriate or illegal conduct.

Ethical people show responsibility by being accountable.



The Arizona State Retirement Board released its certified annual financial report for the fiscal year 2005-2006.

The 122 page report provides detailed information on finances, investments, actuarial calculations, and general statistics of the agency.

In keeping with the State of Arizona's emphasis on electronic business and cost savings on printing, a limited number of reports were printed. To view the entire report electronically, visit the ASRS Website.

The ASRS Website now features a Bill Tracker where viewers can read about current legislation that may impact the retirement system. On the Web site, click on "Bill Tracker."

State employees anticipating retiring can find on our website, the *ASRS Members Handbook*; an informative brochure, *Getting Ready to Retire*, that gives an overview of the retirement process; as well as information about long-term disability.

Retired members can locate information about the *Retiree Premium Benefit Program*, as well as *ScriptSave*, an affordable prescription savings plan.

Log on to the Arizona State Retirement System Website at:

www.azasrs.gov





We appreciate this comment sent to us by the operations manager of Human Resources:

Ron,

I want to take the time to congratulate you and your editorial board on the first anniversary of **TRAN**SEND. It is an interesting, enlightening and entertaining newsletter. Obviously, much careful thought, planning, effort, and talent are invested in each month's issue. **TRAN**SEND speaks well for ADOT and its employees. Thank you.

Cherie Pennington HR Operations Manager

**ED:** The success of **TRAN***SEND* has been largely to the support of our readers, who submit articles, and suggestions for stories. As we enter our second year of publication, we hope that we can continue to satisfy our readers.

One of the areas we are exploring is a regular column about Human Resources and the services offered by your group. Perhaps you are the one we should discuss this with.

Sean Murphy, an information technology specialist with the Program and Project Management Section, inquiries about the *Milestones in Service* column featuring employees who have attained major years of employment:

Did these people (those whose name appear in the column) make the milestone last month, or are they scheduled to make it this month? I started working for the state in March, 1987, but I have only worked for ADOT since 1999. I don't know if I should expect to see my name in the Milestones in Service.

**ED:** The names published in *Milestones* are of ADOT employees who have attained state service the month prior to publication. The March list is about people who completed major years of service in February. Human Resources reports to us, names of people who have continuous state service and are currently serving with ADOT. So, although you have been with ADOT since 1999, your name is included in this issue since your anniversary state hire date was in March, 1987.

Because **TRAN***SEND* has received inquires about why we don't report milestones of service before 20 years, the Editorial Board has decided to report 10 and 15 years of service as well, beginning with this issue.

A retired ADOT Bridge Group employee now living out of state keeps up with what is happening in ADOT through the monthly publication of **TRAN**SEND. Dan Davis writes to comment on recent articles about the Burro Creek Bridge Project:

Dear Editor:

As an ADOT retiree I enjoy keeping up with all the happenings at ADOT through your newsletter. I especially appreciate the recent articles on the dedication and the partnering award ceremonies for the Burro Creek Bridge project. I was disappointed that ADOT Bridge Group wasn't acknowledged or credited as the in-house designer of this magnificent steel arch bridge. It is the new crown jewel of ADOT bridges. Go to the Bridge Group web page for some great photos of the construction phases.

Best regards,

Dan Davis, PE State Bridge Engineer (Retired) Alexandria, Virginia

**ED:** We are delighted to hear that retirees read **TRAN***SEND* to keep abreast of ADOT people and events.

We can appreciate your pride in the Burro Creek Bridge project since you were formerly part of the Bridge Group. We went to the web site (www.azdot.gov/Highways/Bridges) as you suggested and found that the photos show the magnificent design and construction of the Burro Creek bridge.

**TRAN**SEND reported dedication of the bridge (April, 2006, page 4); and the partnering award it won (January,2007, page 11). We regret that we failed to obtain and report the additional details about the involvement of the Bridge Group Design Team.

More mail on Page 10





### Continued from Page 9

Henri Verdugo of Right of Way Administration sends this message about the fact that on-line announcements regarding the availability of **TRANSEND** now have brief previews of the articles contained in the current issue. Henri also makes reference to an article about his making and playing of Indian flutes that was published in *Mileposts*, the predecessor of **TRANSEND**:

Ron,

I appreciate the brief description of the cover story. Personally, I find it very interesting to learn more about some of our ADOT co-workers. I enjoyed this month's cover article [March, 2007, about John Curley, Jr., marathon runner].

Also, thanks again for doing the story on me and my flutes. I still get asked occasionally, "are you the guy that makes the flutes?"

**ED:** Three months ago we began putting brief vignettes about the stories in the current issue announcements that we send via e-mail. It's our way of giving readers an insight into what they can find in **TRAN***SEND* when they open it up. We are glad it works for you and everyone else who reads the employee newsletter.

PS/ I certainly enjoyed interviewing you and writing about the wonderful native flutes that you make.

## Procurement employees recognized as Star Performers by Equipment Services

wo employees of ADOT Procurement Group were acknowledged for their valued perform-ance in helping Equipment Services set up a new repair shop that will service vehicles for the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

Gary Rickard, parts supervisor for Equipment Services Central Region, nominated Susanna Hernandez and Nancy Caffrey to receive *Star Performer* awards. Both women have worked in Procurement for the past six years.

"The new shop will a be state-of-the-art facility that will handle the diverse equipment that Game and Fish have in their fleet," according to Rickard. "In addition to the usual sedans, pick-up trucks and dump trucks, their fleet includes bulldozers, graders, canoes, all terrain vehicles, dirt bikes and aircraft; over 400 pieces of equipment," he said.

"Tools and equipment needed to work on this diverse fleet is complex. My list of acquisitions will exceed \$180,000; and all but one item are covered under

Gary Rickard of Equipment Services presents Star Performer Awards to Susanna Hernandez and Nancy Caffrey of Procurement for their efforts in setting up contracts for a new Equipment Services shop.

contracts created by Susanna Hernandez and Nancy Caffrey," according to Rickard.

"Does this make my job easier," he asks. "You bet it does," he answers, "without the help and professional attitude of Susie and Nancy, this project would take me months. Their hard work, job knowledge, and professionalism, make my life easier.

The vehicle service shop is expected to be in operation later this Summer at the new Game and Fish location at I-17 and Carefree Highway, north of Phoenix. It will be staffed and operated by ADOT personnel under a contract agreement with the Game and Fish Department. ADOT provides vehicle maintenance for the Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA) under a similar agreement.







A traveler from Nevada sent an e-mail commenting on the ease with which he was able to navigate the freeway system around Phoenix:

You should be proud of your excellent work on the Phoenix freeway system. Very impressive, indeed. I live in Las Vegas and can only wish that the Nevada DOT could learn from ADOT. If you have ever been to Las Vegas, you know what I mean. Las Vegas Freeways are a mess. Keep up the good work in Phoenix and get to working on those Tucson freeways. They need them badly!

**ED:** To the sender (whose name was withheld on request), we say that we are pleased that you find our Arizona freeway system in Maricopa County to your liking. We assure you that



ADOT is working to improve the freeways in and around Tucson, and throughout the state. Just last month, ADOT began a major widening project along I-10 in Tucson. About a year ago, we completed a major interchange improvement between I-19 and I-10 in that city.

Commenting on the US 60 and Ironwood interchange project, a city official from Apache Junction writes to Kirk Kiser of ADOT Landscape Construction:

Kirk,

Just want to send a huge thanks to the folks at ADOT. The [US 60/Ironwood] project is a wonderful addition to the community. We look forward to the upcoming ground breaking ceremony. Thanks again. We look forward to future joint intergovernmental projects with ADOT.

Bryant Powell Assistant City Manager City of Apache Junction

Tony Lillie of Arkansas, while, visiting his sister in Apache Junction, telephoned ADOT to comment about the artistic treatment to freeway sound walls in Maricopa County.

"I've never seen freeways so beautiful! Too bad I couldn't stop along the highway to take photos of them. Somebody ought to make postcards of those walls to sell."

**ED:** Thank you, Tony of Evansville, Arkansas for your comments. We will send you some photographs of the sound walls. Come back and visit Arizona again.



Employees retiring recently from ADOT, as reported by Human Resources, include:

**Adelina M. Acevedo**, ITD, State Engineer's Office, 36 years

**Ahron Boehmer**, TSG, Strategic Planning and Budget, 17 years

**Sandra K. Graham**, ITD, Maintenance Support, 30 years

Pat W. Grinstead, TSG, Data Team, GIS, 13 years

**Jeffrey S. James**, ITD, Western Region Signing and Striping, 18 years

**Jon E. Kromroy**, MVD, Enforcement Services, St. George POE, 32 years

**Marcos L. Miranda**, ITD, Tucson District Maintenance, 20 years

**Brent L. Parker**, ITD, Bridge Group Management Section, 18 years

William Thomas Rutledge, MVD, Motor Carrier and Tax Services, 16 years

**David C. Sikes**, ITD, Holbrook District Administration, 10 years

**Alfredo Zapata**, ITD, Roadway Support Section, 20 years





Beginning with this issue, we expand the list of employees who have reached milestones of employment with ADOT to include those with 10 and 15 years of service:

### 35 years

James P. Delton, ITD, Materials Group

### 25 years

John W. Guild, MVD, Forms and Publications Helen M. Hall, ITD, Phoenix Construction Joe P. Hernandez, ITD, Phoenix Signing and Striping

**Paul J. Skrzypek**, TSG, Equipment Services, Phoenix Auto shop

### 20 years

Mary C. Brimhall, MVD, Northern Region CDL Office

**Kathleen Brown**, MVD, Northwest Office **Anita I. Jimenez**, MVD, Third Party Management Support Unit

**Sean P. Murphy**, ITD, Statewide Project Management Section

Robert W. Pastor, ITD, Globe Maintenance

#### 15 vears

Alicia C. Almanza, MVD, Yuma Dual Office David Y. Burbank, Jr., ITD, Tucson Permits Xavier O. Casillas, ITD, Tucson Maintenance Rudy G. Cruz, MVD, Tucson Regional Office Diana L. Harmon, TSG, Program Budget Analysis

**Roseann Tucker**, MVD, Executive Services, Distribution

Paul E. Wells, ITD, Prescott Maintenance

### 10 years

Services

Hubert Begazo, ITD, Roadway Maintenance King S. Fanene, ITD, Avondale Landscape David M. Harmon, ITD, Holbrook District Construction

James M. Horsley, ITD, Natural Resources Patricia B. Lopez, MVD, Parker Frankie J. Lusko, TSG, Facilities Maintenance, Tucson Jerry B. Ott, ITD, Hazard Elimination Karen L. Reyes, MVD, Operational Support

Kenneth R. Stewart, ITD, Maintenance, Safford

**Joseph W. Warren**, ITD, Roadway Predesign Section

